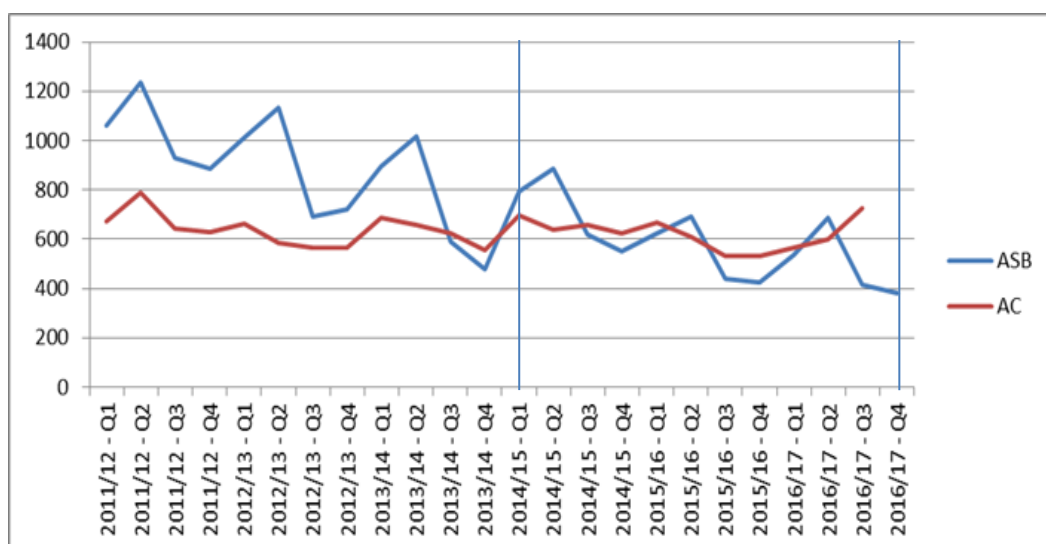


Title	Report on the Test Valley Partnerships' Community Safety priorities 2014/2017.		
Report of the Head of	Communities & Leisure		
Author	Community Engagement Manager (Community Safety)	Ext	8640
Report to	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date	May 2017
Briefing Summary			
An update on developments and progress on the Test Valley Partnerships Community Safety Priorities for the periods 2014-15 / 2016-17.			
Main focus of the document			
CSP Priorities 2014-17:			
1. Acquisitive Crime (* Acquisitive Crime includes Robbery, House Burglary, Other Burglary, Theft of / from Motor Vehicle, Other Theft & Handling, Shop Theft.)			
<p>Reports of Acquisitive Crime have remained steady over the course of the reporting period, as shown in the chart below. Over the period 2014-2017, Crime Reporting mechanisms have significantly changed nationally due to the 'Crime Data Integrity' process as directed by HMIC, which has resulted in a statistical increase in overall and some individual crime types. It is therefore difficult in many cases to provide data for direct comparison against previous periods, due to these changes in recording processes and as such comparisons are used primarily for illustrative purposes.</p> <p>Levels have been impacted by the success of the various projects and events held, to raise awareness of the issues and preventative options; and of the positive early intervention programmes completed with young people to divert them away from negative behaviour and to offer positive alternatives to crime and ASB, some of which are highlighted below.</p>			



2. Protecting Vulnerable People:

CSP partners now undertake home safety checks for vulnerable people. Within this they check for any immediate issues (smoke alarms, trip hazards etc.), as well as considering wider issues such as hoarding or home circumstances. Where these are recognised they will work with residents and other partners to provide support and information to help address these. 241 Home Safety Visits were conducted by partners across the district during 2015/6 (the most recent data available), and a total of 863 different households received a visit and advice over the period 2013/2016.

The partnership also implemented and supported Operation 'Liberal' and Operation 'Signature', which were crime prevention programmes for older and vulnerable people, and in regards to rogue traders and doorstep distraction burglaries respectively. The 'Big Band Buffet' also became an annual event to promote crime and home safety messages to older and vulnerable people, and over the period attracted over 450 to the events.

Operation 'Makesafe' has undertaken work in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation, and promoted information and reporting processes to relevant partners. This operation has resulted in the identification and protection of some significantly vulnerable local girls from serious and organised crime, including drug running and prostitution, and who had been groomed and taken to London for this purpose.

Data for hate crime incidents show a small increase from 2015/16 to 2016/17. However this also shows that the levels of Hate Crimes within the Test Valley District are in the lowest classification of reports for districts across Hampshire, and that no area within the district appears in the top 25 listed areas for reported Hate Crimes.

An early intervention project was devised to address issues of mental health and suicide rates, in partnership with the CCGs and Mind. However, a bid to fund this was rejected by the OPCC.

The partnership also supported and provided funding towards the implementation of the 'Safe Place' initiative districtwide, which is a scheme to help people identify

shops or businesses as 'safe places' for help if they become confused or disorientated. Partners have also worked to distribute community resilience emergency packs to key locations for easy access to known vulnerable people across the district, in case of natural emergency.

3. Youth issues:

The partnership have developed and implemented a range of projects to address youth issues, in consultation with many groups including young people themselves.

These projects include the 'ICE' (Information, Communication, Education) project. ICE is an early-intervention partnership project aimed at young people at a difficult period of their life and at risk of making choices which could negatively impact on their futures. The project offers workshops that discuss actions and consequences relating to topics such as fire safety, cyber bullying, hate crime and criminal damage. ICE also provides one-to-one sessions that promote good citizenship, safer communities and increased school attendance.

Prior to completing the 'ICE' scheme, the initial 18 young people had been involved in a total of 30 incidents of ASB or crime. Since the completion of the course this fell to 14 incidents over a comparable period. There has been a 61% reduction in the number of young people committing ASB or crime. It also represents a reduction in incidences of ASB and crime of 53.4%.

In 2016, the 'ICE' project was awarded 'Runner Up' in the 'Best Project' category in the 2016 National 'Resolve ASB Awards'. The project was highly commended by the judges for its innovation, sustained impact and community engagement processes. Participants have also been able to complete the Duke of Cornwall's Community Award as a further means of recognition of their achievements. Subsequently, additional funding has been secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner to extend the ICE project to March 2018.

Other engagement and diversionary projects have included regular Community Sports session in each school holiday with officers from partner agencies, to help break down barriers and encourage openness and information sharing by all sides. A revised structure of sessions has seen an increase in take up by young people in Andover over the summer holidays, and the Romsey session continues to be well attended.

Partners have also run a number annual 'Think Safe' events which provides children with interactive learning experiences covering different areas, including stranger danger, cyber safety on-line, fire, road and rail safety as well as emergency first aid.

The partnership also engaged with young people to help the development of the Andover Skate park as an alternative to other inappropriate locations for meetings and urban sports, and also helped to deliver a number of skate projects at Andover, Romsey and Knightwood.

4. Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour:

Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour have seen a consistent downward trend over the periods of the term, as demonstrated in the chart above. These have been heavily

benefited by the positive engagement and projects operated with and for young people to provide both education against ASB, and alternative options for them to meet and act in more appropriate locations, as outlined. It has also been impacted by the levels of awareness raising and prevention advice provided across communities.

During this period, formerly 'legal highs' were criminalised. However, data (within the caveats outlined above) on incidents of drug possession have fallen year-on-year over this period from 215 to 150. 'Op Bastille' has continued targeting the supply of Class A drugs into the district, aligned with protecting the most vulnerable and those at risk of being used by suppliers (i.e. by the use of their houses for local dealing).

A joint operation was also developed and implemented to take action in regards to aggressive begging in Andover Town Centre, and ASB/Noise nuisance levels in ASDA undercroft Car Park. Funding was also provided to help promote Neighbourhood Watch schemes and support training of new Street Pastors.

5. Deliver a range of early interventions which support those families at risk of causing harm to their communities and which help tackle the barriers to reducing re-offending,

The ICE project, as noted above, which has been targeted at those identified as exhibiting negative or changed behaviour, has also identified other causes of these changed behaviours. These have included previously undiagnosed issues of domestic abuse, bullying, mental health issues and others. Where possible the programme has been tailored to meet the specific needs of the individual cohorts. Where the causes of these concerns have not been relevant to the programme, officers have undertaken to do 1/2/1 work with the young people and schools to help address this, and make specialist recommendations as necessary for specific support to help address these issues, including through the Supporting Troubled Families Programme and other local organisations as applicable. Similar early identification, engagement and signposting have also resulted from the Think Safe and other projects.

Those on the ICE programme have also been taken on a guided trip to Winchester Prison to experience the realities of prison life directly from a young offender's perspective, which has had a considerable impact upon their perceptions and future behaviours.

6. Increase public reassurance and confidence, and address negative perceptions of safety.

The partnership has developed and promoted a wide range of campaigns, including those of individual partners locally and nationally, towards local reassurance and confidence. A range of distinct projects have been developed and implemented by partners over this term to support families and reduce re-offending. In addition to the projects noted above, partners have also established the annual Big Band Buffet event. Over 450 people have attended this event for older people during this period, to learn more about current issues, and to help them be prepared for issues such as distraction burglaries, rouge and doorstep traders, etc., plus on wider issues such as staying safe in the home, preventing falls, and dementia awareness. Alongside this partners have also operated several campaigns and community awareness events

across the district, including on-line and cyber crime, fire safety, fraud, loan sharks, etc., as well as highlight the local services available to them from agencies, plus community and voluntary sector groups.

7. Respond quickly and positively to predicted and emerging crime and ASB trends.

The partnership meets on a regular basis to ensure it is able to respond quickly to changes in trends. Officers meet monthly in both Andover and Romsey to discuss individual case issues, and to put in place multi-agency action plans to address identified needs. Where wider issues affect local communities, partners have held local PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings for residents and agencies to meet discuss issues and agree joint plans to help address these. These have proven successful in many areas, including in South Street and Junction Road, Andover. On a strategic level, managers from each partner agency, plus those from community and voluntary groups (i.e. Neighbourhood Watch, Street Pastors etc.) meet bi-monthly to overview partner and local information, concerns and trends, and to plan and allocate resources to address these, including around holiday periods, and known hot-times and locations, i.e. Bonfire Night, Halloween .etc.

8. The promotion, where possible, of community resolution and restorative justice techniques to secure sustainable benefits to the community.

The Partnership has worked closely with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on issues of Restorative Justice. Test Valley joined with Eastleigh to develop and pilot a local RJ project with Victim Support. Due to changes in funding and priorities, this has since ceased but we continue to work with the OPCC on his RJ steering group to develop a countywide approach to promoting and enabling RJ processes.

9. The commitment to operate in co-operative partnership amongst agencies and community/voluntary sector groups working towards enhanced and positive communities.

The strategic partnership includes all statutory CSP members (including TVBC, Police, HF&RS, and CCG), plus other relevant core members, such as Neighbourhood Watch, Street Pastors, Housing Associations, and Town Centre Manager, New Forrest Mediation, plus other invited attendees as relevant to issues under discussion.

Annual reports have been produced for the Test Valley Partnership over the term of this period, and have been approved on each occasion.

Confidentiality (Please delete whichever paragraph below does not apply and, if the report is to be exempt, complete the paragraph number of Schedule 12A and the public interest test reason.)

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:	Nil
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